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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AmConGen, Lagos, Nigeria

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DESP. NO.

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 28, 1952
DATE

REF:

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - July 14-26, 1952

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POLITICAL

Adedoyin Bid for Position as Akarigbo of Ijebu Remo Finished

With announcement Resident's recognition Prince AWOLESI as Akarigbo of Ijebu Remo, Prince ADEDOYIN's attempts occupy this stool finally quashed. NCNC paper reflects dissatisfaction.

Activities and Policies of Western House of Assembly

Local Government Bill (Action Group sponsored) passed. Revamps Native Authority system in West, establishes local & divisional mixed elective-appointive Councils responsible to Regional Council Residents and District Officers relegated to advisors. R.C. to be Lt.Governor and Regional Council of Ministers. NCNC opposition charges usurpation authority traditional chiefs. Bill pushed through, trouble may come later.

Awolowo and party have introduced bill extending term present Lagos Town Council until such time Action Group-sponsored reform authorized. NCNC marshalling strong opposition to measure. Some non-NCNC members objecting to AG majority's steamroller tactics on all Awolowo bills.

AG introduced bill to alter name Lagos Colony to Lagos Province. Best guess makes it attempt to curb authority expatriate officers in Colony area, pave way for Lagos reform eliminating NCNC influence in area. Proposal raises question in re legality bill against provisions old treaty ceding Lagos to Queen Victoria.

Awolowo's "Four Year Public Health Plan" for West unanimously accepted in House. Plans include: free school medical service; one good hospital in each Province; one hospital of some sort in each political division in region; appointment of hospital visiting committee; increased nurse and midwife training facilities; and health insurance. Present lack money for such ambitious scheme did not deter--to try to get funds from Production Development Board.

RWRoss/LDJunior/esh
REPORTER.

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Undoubtedly but first attempt grab development funds for other uses.

New Land Acquisition Law passed continuing provisions against purchase by non-Nigerians. Passed because Lt. Governor not legally bound accept laws passed before January 24, 1952. This one will bind him.

Bill submitted transferring control Forestry Reserves from Forestry Department to Local Councils. Charges looting reserves under inefficient FD administration.

Welfare bill submitted. Attempt to legislate juvenile morality.

Northern Peoples Congress Convention

Major resolution passed in convention states firm opposition any effort carve off pieces present Northern Region for other Regions. Aimed at Western Region attempts take into West small enclave partially populated by Yorubas. Convention also demands closer cooperation with Ministers from North.

The Convention Peoples Party of Nigeria

CPP meeting at Aba, featuring nationalism and replete with "Imperialism", "reactionary", "exploitation", "labouring masses", etc., indicates party picking up a few adherents among dissident elements.

ECONOMIC

Possible Resurgence Japanese Trade Here

Press speculating on changes in commercial picture attendant upon Minister NWAPA's return from UK. General attitude that UK textile makers cannot supply Nigeria's needs and Japanese will be allowed fill gap. Seems to be little regret among locals that UK textiles here may be eclipsed by Japanese.

New Western Regional Production Development Board

Action Group submitted new membership Board for Lt.Governor's approval. Members admittedly good party men and AG press characterizes Board as party's "economic wing" with objective of making Western life "more abundant". Non-Nigerian elements of Government will strongly oppose action as it may probably lead to expenditure money for non-developmental uses.

Production Development Board Announces Citrus Plans

Board planning Western Region lemon juice extraction plant. Two-year experiments by English research firm indicates

feasibility and hopes are for operation by 1954.

Plateau Miners Seek 30% Pay Raise

Nigerian African Mineworkers' Union memo to Nigerian Mining Employers Ass'n demands thirty percent raise all levels and bigger corn ration. Ask retroactive raises to January 1, 1952. Union alleges high cost of living, good profits. Says raises will not "inconvenience the profits". Much smaller pay increases likely.

Establishment Nigerian Port Authority

Minister of Transport announces autonomous Port Authority to be established when Governor-in-Council. Presently looking for manager to plan activities of such Authority. Lagos and Apapa to be first ports under plan, later all Nigerian ports. Plans are result widespread criticism inefficiency of ports.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Eastern House of Assembly

Large portion of debate on 1952-53 Eastern Region Supplementary Appropriation Bill was concerned with scholarship funds. Motion to reduce appropriation from £43,000 to £10,000 pending further planning defeated, leaving details for Scholarship Board. Present plans call for: £4,500 for Secondary School Scholarships, £11,600 for students now in UK and US, £6,000 for scholarships at Ibadan University, £16,000 for training of apprentices, with a reserve for adjustments of £4,100.

Northern Scholarship Problems

Northern Minister of Social Services told Northern House that 500 scholarships for next year is "impractical" because of acute lack of "suitably qualified persons". Said there "are some things in life which money cannot buy and a University education is one of them". Government statement two days previously that present two schools turning out scholars qualified for UK higher education would be joined by four more within three years reinforced Ministers statement that future of scholarship scheme depends on "our students who are now in Secondary Schools". Five Northern youngsters awarded Secondary School Scholarships in UK by Northern Self-Development Fund so that "in four or five years schooling in England....they should be fit to enter a University". News from UK, published in Lagos, that colonial scholars may be admitted to UK universities only when their own area does not offer the desired subjects in its' own universities, failed to create much interest or commentary.

Robert W. Ross
Vice Consul